(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Indian Council of Medical Research or any other organisation propose to undertake trial of the tubectomy pill; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE: (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) Studies have been undertaken in several countries. After approval of Drug Controller of India, ICMR, has initiated a study with Quinacrine Pellets at two Human Reproduction Research Centres.

Cat Scan Machine at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi

1650. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Cat Scan Machine had been installed in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi;

(b) if so, when the machine was installed;

(c) whether it is a fact that the said machine was out of order for over 11 months causing incovenience to the patients;

(d) if so, when it went out of order giving the reasons therefor; and

(e) what action Government propose to take in this regard and by when it is likely to restart?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (e) The machine installed in 1983 went out of order in February, 1993 as the X-ray tube became non-functional due to normal wear and tear. It has been replaced and the machine made functional.

Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders

1651. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's approach and strategy on the control of Iodine deficiency disorder *vis-a-vis* the enforcement of measures;

(b) the details of study made and findings thereof carried out by the medical institutes or research bodies; and

(c) what steps have been taken to monitor that salt manufactured and sold in the market are not spurious and does contain appropriate quantity of Iodine alongwith the results achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) In order to control the problem of Iodine Deficiency Disorders, the Government of India have decided to iodate the entire edible salt in the country. So far, 17 States and 6 Union Territories have banned the sale of salt other than iodated salt in their respective States/UTs, while 6 other States have banned partially in some endemic districts. The remaining States/UTs have been advised to issue ban orders expeditiously. Emphasis is also given on the spread of appropriate health education amongst the people.

(b) Studies conducted by the Directorate General of Health Services, Indian Council of Medical Research and other Institutions have revealed that out of 235 districts surveyed so far, 193 districts have been found to be endemic for goitre.

(c) Standards for iodated salt have been prescribed in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act/Rules. At the production level, the quality of iodised salt is checked by the Salt Commissioner and at distribution levels by the respective State Heath/Food authorities.